



# **South Atlantic Fishery Management Council**

## ***COUNCIL REPORT***

**CCC Meeting  
May 13, 2014**



# CURRENT MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

## *Snapper Grouper*

- Addressing the removal of the prohibitions on the use black seabass pots (Regulatory Amendment 16)
- Considering regulations to help protect speckled hind and warsaw grouper (Regulatory Amendment 17 or new spawning SMZs amendment)
- Modifying snowy grouper management measures based on the recent the stock assessment (Regulatory Amendment 20)
- Creating a recreational tag program for species with exceptionally low recreational ACLs (Amendment 22)



# CURRENT MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

## *Snapper Grouper*

- Addressing changes to the ABC control rule and “Only Reliable Catch Stocks – ORCS” (Amendment 29)
- Addressing modifications to the blueline tilefish fishery (Amendment 32)
- Developing accountability measures (AMs) for snapper grouper species (Amendment 34)
- Addressing bringing snapper grouper species fillets back from the Bahamas (Amendment 33)



# CURRENT MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

## *Dolphin Wahoo*

- Addressing bringing dolphin and wahoo fillets back from the Bahamas (Amendment 7)
- Developing accountability measures (AMs) for dolphin and wahoo (Generic Amendment)



# CURRENT MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

## *Mackerel*

- Addressing joint Gulf and South Atlantic issues related to trip limits in the Gulf, zones/subzones, transit through closed areas and regional allocations in the south Atlantic (Joint Amendment 20B)
- Updating the ACLs for Atlantic group and Gulf group Spanish mackerel (Joint CMP Framework Amendment 1)
- Revising the quota and trip limit system for commercial Atlantic Spanish mackerel in the Florida EEZ (Joint CMP Framework Amendment 2)



# CURRENT MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

## *Mackerel*

- Addressing in-season “ACL shift” for the Atlantic Spanish mackerel fishery (Joint Amendment 24)
- Modifying/separating Atlantic and Gulf king and Spanish mackerel commercial permits (Joint Amendment 26)

# SAFMC Visioning Project

*What are the Port Meetings Revealing?*



# Visioning Project: *Fisherman Input*

## Public Involvement - Port Meetings:

- ✓ *Informal, town hall-style meetings in fishing communities throughout the region*
- ✓ *Gather input from all stakeholders with fishery interests (commercial/for-hire/recreational; chefs/restaurants; eNGOs; coastal tourism operators, etc.)*





# Port Meeting Goals & Results

- ✓ Develop a list of ideas for future management of the snapper grouper fishery
- ✓ Develop a list of management tools for specific fishery issues (*e.g., reducing discards, spatial management, etc.*)
- ✓ Compile results by state and by sector
- ✓ Present draft results at June 2014 Council meeting
- ✓ Further develop into specific goals, objectives, and strategic plan in 2014



# Port Meeting Schedule

(Total = 27 Meetings)

South Carolina:	North Carolina:	Florida:	Georgia:
Feb 11 – Murrells Inlet (2 meetings)	March 17 – Southport	March 25 – St. Augustine (2 meetings)	April 14 – Savannah
Feb 12 – Charleston	March 17 – Shallotte	March 26 – Titusville (2 meetings)	April 15 – St. Simons Island
Feb 17 – Charleston	March 18 – Sneads Ferry	March 27 – Port Salerno	April 15 – Brunswick
Feb 18 – Bluffton	March 19 – Morehead City	March 27 – Lake Park	April 16 – Shellman Bluff
Feb 20 – Columbia	March 19 – Raleigh	March 31 – Key West	
April 22 - Charleston	March 20 – Wanchese	April 1 – Marathon	
	March 20 - Hatteras	April 2 – Key Largo	

Participation = 360 stakeholders



# Issues/Problems Identified Through the Visioning Project

- Reporting – *Lacking in recreational sector and redundancy in commercial; not using new technology*
- Science/Stock Assessments – *Lack of Trust, Accuracy, Timeliness, not matching what fishermen are seeing on the water*
- Data Collection – *MRIP problems*
- Research – *Need for more cooperative*
- S-G Permits – *Commercial 2 for 1; For-hire limited entry?; lacking in recreational sector*



# Issues/Problems Identified Through the Visioning Project

- Flexibility in Management Strategies – *Annual Catch Limits, Seasons, Timeliness*
- Too Many Discards – *too many fish floating off*
- One Size Fits All Management vs. Regional Management – *area of Council's jurisdiction very different; geographical differences in fishery*
- Time/Area Management – *Seasonal Closures, frustration with existing MPAs*
- Allocation



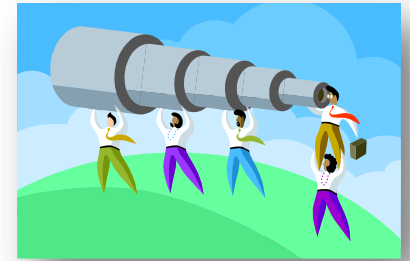
# Issues/Problems Identified Through the Visioning Project

- Species Specific Issues – *Black Sea Bass, Red Snapper, Shallow-water Grouper, Jacks Complex*
- Endorsement Program Issues – *Black sea bass and Golden Tilefish*
- Fear of Catch Shares (*a few supporters*)
- Goliath Grouper, Lionfish, & Sharks - *Pests*
- Conflicting Regulations/Permits – *OBX of NC and Florida Keys*
- Keys fisheries are working just fine – *yellowtail, mutton and gray snapper*



# Next Steps:

*How to synthesize all the information?*



- Information compiled by STATE and by SECTOR
- Present state summaries to Council - June 2014
- Present sector summaries to Council - Sept 2014
- Special Council member Visioning Workshop ---  
*October 14-16, 2014 in Charleston, SC*
- Council begins work to develop strategic plan
- Additional review/input by the public





## FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Complete the *Snapper Grouper Visioning Project* and develop a strategic plan for the fishery
- Explore potential applications of the visioning project for our *other fisheries*
- Improve *reporting and data collection* (electronic reporting)
- Encourage NMFS to improve *fisheries dependent data collection*
- Increase the number and frequency of stock assessments and *improve the SEDAR stock assessment process*
- Encourage and support the development of a *cooperative fisheries independent monitoring program*



## **ADDITIONAL NOAA SUPPORT REQUIRED**

- SAFE Reports
- Support for and collaboration on cooperative monitoring
- More \$\$ to support fishery independent surveys and fisheries dependent data collection
- Commitment of personnel and resources to explore better data poor approaches for management
- System for more timely posting and tracking of ACLs
- Improved communication, collaboration and relaxation of formality





# South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

## QUESTIONS?

